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E-GOVERNMENT AND CORRUPTION: A CROSS-COUNTRY ANALYSIS

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Abstract

In addition to other benefits, e-Government can help alleviate corruption in nations by reducing the existing information asymmetries. Though governments are interested in understanding the impacts of e-Government on the level of national corruption, there are relatively few empirical studies that analyze this aspect. Motivated by this gap, we first develop a theoretical model for e-Government impacting the level of corruption in a nation, mediated by a reduction in information asymmetry between public officials and citizens. As an initial step, in this research-in-progress paper, using secondary data from 113 countries, we examine the relationship between e-Government development and the level of corruption in nations. Broadly, the study suggests the important significant relationship of e-Government development with the level of national corruption. Future research will test the mediated model to understand “how” e-Government impacts corruption through a reduction of information asymmetries between the various national stakeholders.

Keywords: Corruption, information asymmetry, IT impact, mediation, secondary data